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**Abstract of the Disclosure**

5 A vacuum holddown for a hard copy device comprises a platen having plural vacuum zones arranged in a side-by-side array across the platen. Each vacuum zone has a closed end and an open end and is coupled to a vacuum source. Each vacuum zone defines a recess in the upper surface of the platen that is fluidly coupled to the vacuum source through a port. The back walls and side walls of each vacuum zone are coplanar with the upper surface of the platen. A step may be positioned in the vacuum zones to define an open vacuum zone having multiple depths.